

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Werthan Packaging, Inc.

Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Werthan Packaging, Inc. Keeps Employees Cool

Client Profile:

Werthan Packaging, located in Nashville, Tennessee manufactures pet food packages by printing, laminating and folding paper and plastic film into bags. The family-owned business employs 300 people.

Situation:

Werthan Packaging does most of its processing in a building built in 1952. The building is not air conditioned, and many of the workers experience indoor temperatures higher than the comfort level during extremely hot and humid summers of Nashville. Due to the very competitive nature of Werthan's product, the main goal was to keep costs down while making the employee environment better, leading to lower turnover of already trained personnel, less days of being absent, and more productive employees. Werthan contacted the Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Partnership (TMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

TMEP brought in a University of Tennessee professor who assisted the company with a study of ventilation and cooling options that would offer relief to the employees. One of the main suggestions implemented was to build an enclosure around the boiler that supplies water to run the line of gravure printing equipment. Gravure printing is characteristically used for long run, high quality printing producing a sharp, fine image. Upon implementation of the new procedure, a large amount of heat from the boiler is now contained in the room, rather than flowing to the area where the employees are running the presses. In addition, ventilation fans and vents were added to the correct locations in the building to optimize the flow of air. As a result of TMEP's assistance, Werthan Packaging has kept costs down and remained competitive in their bid process.

Results:

- * Retained sales of \$21 million.
- * Invested \$15,000 in plant and equipment.
- * Invested \$4,000 in workforce development.

Testimonial:

"It is important to note that in today's manufacturing environment any cost savings allows our company to better compete in very aggressive markets. The savings from this project helped us in retaining sales during a very aggressive bid process."

Don Belmont, President

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